GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1347
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2004
INCREASE IN LOWER AGE FOR RECRUITMENT
Kamat Shri Gurudas

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to increase the lower age limit of recruitment of Jawans;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether there has been pressure from international organisations to raise the age limit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The minimum age for recruitment in the Army, till date was 16 years which has been enhanced to 17 years and six months, effective from August, 2004. There is no change in the upper age limit which is 25 years.

(c) & (d): Keeping in view the decision of the State Parties to the UN Protocol on `Convention of the Rights of the Child` of which Government of India is a member, it has been decided to raise the minimum age for recruitment of Jawans.